

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP00/07849 filed on August 11, 2000**

*On a separate, new page 46, following page 45, please add the following new header and paragraph containing an Abstract of the Disclosure:*

**—ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

*(See separate sheet)*

Branched, substantially unsaturated fatty alcohol sulfates are produced by a process which comprises the steps of: (a) dimerizing unsaturated C<sub>16-22</sub> fatty acid to form a dimer fraction and a monomer fraction comprised of branched, substantially unsaturated fatty acids and straight chain saturated fatty acids, (b) removing the monomer fraction from the dimerization step, (c) converting the branched, substantially unsaturated fatty acids from step (b) into the corresponding fatty acid methyl esters, (d) hydrogenating the branched, substantially unsaturated fatty acid methyl esters with the double bonds intact to form the corresponding branched, substantially unsaturated fatty alcohols and (e) sulfating and neutralizing the branched, substantially unsaturated fatty alcohols. The fatty alcohol sulfates thus produced exhibit improved performance properties and greater oxidative stability than standard unsaturated fatty alcohol sulfates.—

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10.

Please add the following new claims 11-19.

*11*

11. (New) A branched, substantially unsaturated fatty alcohol sulfate which is the product of the process comprising the steps of: (a) dimerizing an unsaturated C<sub>16-22</sub> fatty acid to form a dimer fraction and a monomer fraction comprised of branched, substantially unsaturated fatty acids and straight chain saturated fatty acids, (b) separating the monomer fraction from the dimer fraction, (c) converting the branched, substantially unsaturated fatty acids in the monomer fraction into the corresponding fatty acid methyl esters, (d) hydrogenating the branched, substantially unsaturated fatty acid methyl esters with the double bonds intact to form the corresponding branched, substantially unsaturated fatty alcohols and (e) sulfating and neutralizing the branched, substantially unsaturated fatty alcohols.